

Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

SEP 29 89
SMA
The Friday Letter

Vol. 10 No. 18

September 15, 1989

On the Hill



FDA Testifies on Dioxin in Milk

The Subcommittee on Health and the Environment, House Committee on Energy and Commerce, held a September 8 hearing on dioxin in milk from bleached white paper cartons. Henry Waxman (D-CA) chaired the hearing.

FDA testified that its tests indicated that milk from paper cartons contained dioxin in the trace amounts of less than one part per trillion, but that the milk was safe to drink. According to FDA, the paper industry is changing its manufacturing techniques to eliminate virtually any levels of dioxin.

USDA was not asked to testify.

-Story by Robert Beard
Office of Governmental Affairs

A Few T-shirts and Caps
Are Still Available

We have 1 small, 4 medium, and 2 large 20th Anniversary T-shirts left. In addition, we have 11 blue caps and 9 red caps available. Anyone wishing to purchase these items may contact Pamela Faith at FTS 756-3000 or drop by Room 819.

Come Share the Hispanic
Heritage Celebration

A diverse and lively program will set the tone for what promises to be a memorable Hispanic Heritage Month at FNS, beginning September 15. To highlight the approaching half-century anniversary of Christopher Columbus' voyage to America, "500 Years of Hispanic Heritage" was selected as the theme for this year's celebration.



FNS' celebration will open with a keynote address from Lynda Lopez, "NEWS4 TODAY" anchor, at 10:30 a.m. on September 20, in the POC 4th floor conference room. Apart from her high profile with the NBC television affiliate, Lopez is also a member of the Board of Directors of the Big Sisters of the Washington Metropolitan Area and a member of the Mexican American Women's National Association.

(HHC Continued Next Page)

(HHC Continued)

The second major activity, set for September 28, is a cultural fair featuring slide shows on Central America and the Dominican Republic, as well as music and various exhibits of art, crafts, textiles, and informational material from throughout Latin America.

Associate Attorney General Robert Martinez will be the featured speaker on October 4, also in the 4th floor conference room, at 10:30 a.m. Hispanic Heritage Month will come to a close on October 12 with an international potluck luncheon, complete with pinatas, drawings, a mariachi band and--guests willing--dancing. The price of admission is a food dish that will feed six to eight persons. The dish does not need to be Hispanic.

Carmen Schachte, chairperson of the Hispanic Heritage Month Planning Committee, says there will be something of interest for everyone. "We are very fortunate to have such excellent speakers this year," said Schachte. "We want to extend an invitation to all FNS employees to drop in at any or all of the activities."

FNS employees who would like more information on Hispanic Heritage Month or who would like to display their souvenirs from travels in Latin America may call Schachte at 756-3200, Noel Lopez at 756-3888, or Robert Johnston at 756-3391.

-Story by Robert Johnston
Program Accountability Division
Photo courtesy of "NEWS4 TODAY"

Hdqrs. Sports State-of-the Art Mailroom/New Metered-Mail System

An important event recently took place at headquarters as Deputy Administrator Joe Leo cut the ribbon to open the new mail room and inaugurate the metered-mail system. The room, designed like a U.S. post office, is both aesthetic and functional. The outer wall is made of solid oak and contains mail boxes and a service window, which keep the mail room and postage meter secure.

With the Department's downtown complex on a metered-mail system and the U.S. Postal Service objective of converting all Federal agencies to metered mail, FNS bit the bullet. This system replaces the old postage-and-fees-paid system (eagle indicia), which has been in existence at headquarters for decades.

The advantage of the metered system is that mail costs are directly accountable, eliminating the need to conduct sample surveys and complicated calculations to arrive at postage costs. In addition, it allows for instant monitoring of mail volume and postage class usage. Of course, like any new

system, there will be a period of familiarization before the system is working smoothly.



Deputy Administrator Joe Leo cuts the ribbon in celebration of the new mailroom and metered-mail system. Sharing the moment are (left to right) ASD's Young Soon Dorr, Paul Braun, Wally Jacobson, Karen Scott, and Carol Naughton, IRMD director.

-Story by Joe Scordato
Information Resources Mgmt. Division
Photo by Pamela Faith
Public Information Staff

MPRO Staffers Voluntarily Taste Test Commodities

Nearly 70 MPRO staff members participated in an elaborate commodity testing program. Nutrition Director Esther Eicher, Special Nutrition Programs food program specialist Elaine Acosta, and Food Distribution Program (FDP) commodity processing specialist June Claiborn organized the event that featured five types of meat loaf, four types of chili, two types of refried beans, and rotini as well as samples of USDA peanut butter and two mystery items containing prunes and figs.



Food stamp staffer Donna Krauss samples one of four chilis made from USDA ground beef, pork, turkey, or a combination of the three.

All participants sampled the products and rated their flavor, texture, appearance, and acceptability. Taste panels were asked to name USDA commodities they thought each entree contained as well as offer general comments on all the products. Prior to the taste-testing session, FDP Director John Merz told how the commodity program began in the mid-1930's, gradually evolving and expanding to the 11 programs it serves today.

Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) inspector Kathy Hernandez discussed her agency's role in assuring product quality and what sampling techniques it uses.

Claiborn discussed nutritional considerations, convenience, cost, and amount of processing involved in USDA's bulk purchases.



Food distribution program specialist Don DeBoer was called in to cut up frozen turkey, pork, and beef rolls.

-Story and photos by Craig Forman
MPRO Public Affairs Staff

FNS Librarian Honored

We have a litterateur in our midst. Richard Dengrove, the FNS Librarian, has won the Killer Frog Award for the worst horror short short story of the year, "The Carrot of Death." For this he was given a large ceramic frog and a \$15 check by publisher Janet Fox, who has sponsored this contest for the past several years. Richard's short short story appeared in this year's Killer Frog Anthology, Rosemary's Tadpole.



20th Anniversary Photo Trivia



I'd have to give it a 65. I like the lyrics, but Virgil can't dance to it.



A rose among the thorns.

At the Celebration of the Twentieth Anniversary
of the
Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture
in the Patio of the Administration Building
Saturday, September 23, 1989
8 p.m. to Midnight

Nostalgic and Modern Music for Dancing
by the Mello Tones Orchestra

Cocktail Buffet:

Assorted Fruits with Brandied Cream
and Chocolate Dipping Sauce
International Cheeses
Crudites with Dill Sauce
Miniature Meatballs in Peppercorn Sauce
Chicken Sesame with Apricot Sauce
Assorted Pastas and Sauces
Miniature Pastries

Cash Bar

R&VP Card (Must be received by September 21, 1989)

Bring this portion with your check or money order payable to the FNS 20th Anniversary Committee (no cash please) to Darlene Bryant, Room 808, Park Office Center, between the hours of 11 to 12 noon or 3 to 4 any day between now and September 21. If unable to come in person, mail payment to Darlene at FNS/USDA, 3101 Park Center Drive Room 808, Alexandria, VA 22302. Payment must be received on or before September 21, 1989. FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED. No tickets will be available at the door. \$22 per person.

_____ Persons \$_____ Enclosed

Name of attendee(s) _____
(necessary for
security) _____

Mailing address _____
(if unable to
come in person) _____

Job Opportunities

FNS is seeking to fill the vacant positions listed below. To be considered for one of them, submit an up-to-date SF-171, Application for Federal Employment, and current performance appraisal to the appropriate personnel office. If you are interested in a headquarters position, apply to the Operations Branch, Personnel Division, Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Alexandria, Virginia

22302. Apply directly to headquarters office for all GM-14-and 15 positions. For regional positions, apply directly to the regional office. For details on the requirements for any of the positions listed below, consult the official vacancy announcement. These are posted on designated bulletin boards or copies can be obtained from the appropriate regional or headquarters personnel office.

Friday Letter Vacancy Listing By Vacancy Number

JOB TITLE	AREA OF CONSID.	SERIES	GRADE	CLOSING DATE	VACANCY NUMBER	OFFICE LOCATION
o Nutritionist	(A)	GM-0630	11/13	09/25/89	89-H-152	HNIS
o Systems Accountant	(A)	GS-0510	9/11	09/19/89	89-158	ACD
o Mgmt. Anal. Officer	(FNS-N)	GM-0343	14	09/19/89	89-159	DAFM
o Occ. Health Nurse	(G)	GS-0610	9	09/19/89	89-160	PED
o Food Program Spec.	(G)	GS-0120	9/11	09/26/89	89-163	FSP
o Food Program Spec.	(A)	GS-0120	9/11	09/26/89	89-163A	FSP
o Systems Accountant	(A)	GS-0510	9/11	10/04/89	89-164	ACD
o Management Analyst	(G)	GS-0343	11	09/19/89	89-165	IRMD
o Management Analyst	(A)	GS-0343	7	09/19/89	89-166	IRMD
o Program Analyst	(A)	GS-0345	11/12	10/03/89	89-167	OAE
o Nutritionist	(A)	GS-0630	12	09/19/89	89-168	NTSD
o Program Analyst	(A)	GS-0345	9/11	09/26/89	89-170	OAE
o Food Program Spec.	(G)	GS-0120	7	10/02/89	89-171	CND
o Food Program Spec.	(FNS-N)	GM-0120	13	09/28/89	89-172	FDD
o Secretary Typing	(FNS-HQ)	GS-0318	5/6	09/22/89	89-173	IRMD
o Secretary Typing	(FNS-HQ)	GS-0318	3/4/5	09/22/89	89-174	FSP
o Clerk-Typist	(G)	GS-0322	3/4	10/10/89	89-175	FSP*
o Secretary Typing	(G)	GS-0318	5/6	10/10/89	89-176	ORO*
o Public Affairs Spec.	(A)	GS-1035	7	10/10/89	89-177	OGAPI
o Food Program Spec.	(G)	GS-0120	12	10/02/89	89-178	CND
o Food Program Spec.	(A)	GS-0120	12	10/02/89	89-178A	CND

Office Location

ACD - Accounting Division
 BUD - Budget Division
 DAFM - Deputy Admin. for Financial Mgmt.
 FSP - Food Stamp Program
 HNIS - Human Nutrition Information Service
 IRMD - Information Resources Mngt. Div.
 OAE - Office of Analysis and Evaluation
 NTSD - Nutrition & Technical Services Div.
 PED - Personnel Division
 CND - Child Nutrition Division
 FDD - Food Distribution Division
 FSP* - Food Stamp Program
 Memphis, TN

ORO* - Office of Regional Operations
 Tucker, GA
 OGAPI- Office of Governmental Affairs
 and Public Information

Area of Consideration

(A) - All Sources
 (FNS-N) - Food and Nutrition Service - Nationwide
 (FNS-HQ) - Food and Nutrition Service - Headquarters
 (G) - Governmentwide